



DEC. NO. 53

BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN



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COMING COMIC



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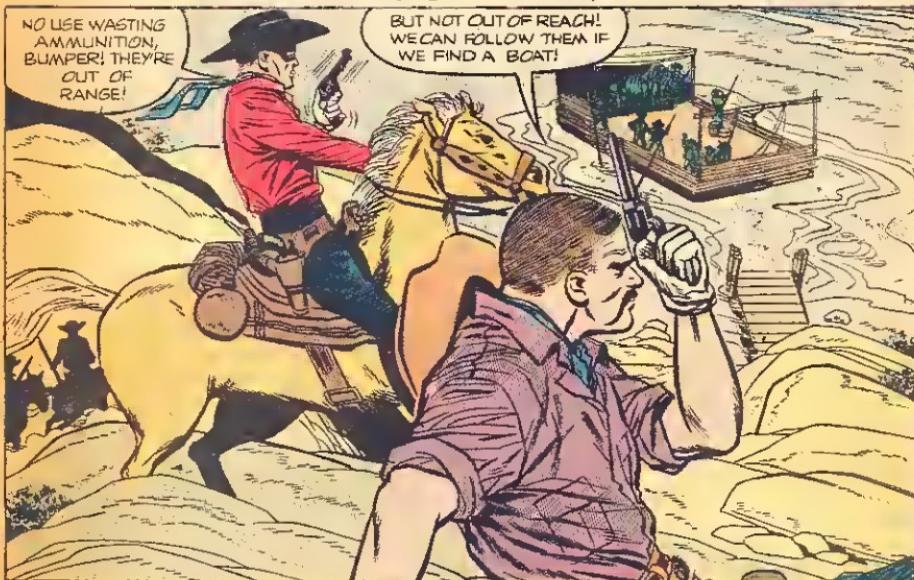


BLACK DIAMOND

IN "TERROR ISLAND"

NO USE WASTING
AMMUNITION,
BUMPER! THEY'RE
OUT OF
RANGE!

BUT NOT OUT OF REACH!
WE CAN FOLLOW THEM IF
WE FIND A BOAT!



THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO ESCAPE A POSSE! SOME THIEVES DO IT WITH BULLETS! THE RAGEN GANG DID IT WITH WATER! SINCE BULLETS FLY ONLY SO FAR AND THE BLACK DIAMOND HADN'T THE NECESSARY FINS TO CONDUCT A WATERY PURSUIT, IT LOOKED AS IF THE FRONTIER FIGHTER AGAINST INJUSTICE HAD AT LAST LOST OUT TO THE LAWLESS! WITH EVERY STROKE OF THEIR OARS THE RAGEN GANG WERE WIDENING THE GAP BETWEEN THEMSELVES AND PUNISHMENT!

WHERE WILL WE FIND ONE? THE RAGEN GANG KNEW THE BARGE WAS HERE! IT WAS MEANT TO TAKE THEM SOME PLACE! WHY CAN'T WE GET THERE, TOO?

BECAUSE NOBODY FIGURED THE RAGEN GANG WOULD TURN INTO SAILORS! SHERIFF, WHAT'S OUT ON THAT LAKE?

A COUPLE OF ISLANDS! THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN TOLD! I NEVER CROSSED THE LAKE MYSELF!







HOURS LATER, AS THE PASSENGER'S FINISH
SLIPPER...







A MOMENT LATER IN
THE WOODS...



THEY'VE
VAMPOOSED!
WE'VE WON,
BLACK
DIAMOND!

IT'S ONLY A BREATHER, BUMPER!
WE'RE IN AS BAD A SPOT AS
EVER! THEY'LL BE WAITING
FOR US TO FALL ASLEEP!

I GET IT! THEY KNOW
WE'RE EXHAUSTED!
THEY FIGURE THEY'LL
CUT OUR THROATS
WHILE WE CATCH
FORTY WINKS!

RIGHT! BUT WELL OUT-GUESS
'EM! WE'LL CATCH THEM
NAPPING! AFTER WE TAKE
CARE OF THOSE SMOKE
SIGNALS!



SHORTLY AFTER...

WILL
ANYBODY
SEE OUR
SIGNALS
ON THE
MAIN-
LAND?

THEY
SHOULD! IT'S A
CLEAR NIGHT!
BESIDES AFTER WE
STRETCH THIS
BLANKET OVER
THE FIRE AND CUT
A HOLE IN THE
MIDDLE, SIGNALS
WILL GO UP ALL
NIGHT LONG!

NOW, LET'S BRING IN THE
RAGEN GANG...DEAD
OR ALIVE!



LATER, IN THE UNDERBRUSH...

RAISE 'EM,
PLUNKS! ONE
WHISPER AND
YOU'LL GET
IT!

? GASP!?



REACH COYOTES! COME
UP WITH A GUN AND
YOU'LL GO DOWN WITH
A SLUG!

I...IT'S THE BLACK
DIAMOND.

D. DON'T
SHOOT...
PLEASE!



NOW TAKE ME TO RAGEN! LET OUT
A PEEP THAT I'M BEHIND YOU AND
YOU'VE PEED YOUR LAST—

GET IT?

Y. YES...
? GULP!?





OUR SIGNALS BACKFIRED!
THEY WERE SEEN BY THE
GANG ON THE MAIN-
LAND! THEY CAME BACK
TO SEE WHAT'S WRONG!

PLENTY'S WRONG!
WE'RE OUTNUMBERED!
OUR AMMO IS
LIMITED, AND
WE'RE
SURROUNDED!

WE WON'T HAVE
TO DO MUCH
STANDING OFF,
BUMPER! THEY'RE
BURNING THE
SHACK DOWN!

LIN UP INTO
A FIRING
SQUAD,
BOYS! THEY'LL
BECOMIN'
OUT ANY
SECOND!

I CAN'T TAKE IT,
BLACK DIAMOND!
I'D RATHER
CATCH LEAD
THAN ROASTIN'
HERE!

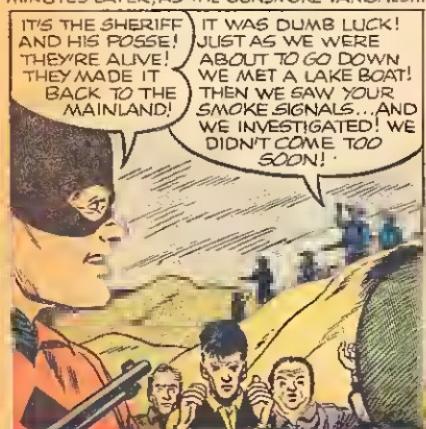
YOU'RE RIGHT!
AT LEAST
LET'S DIE
DISHIN'
IT OUT!



BUT AS THE BLACK DIAMOND BURSTS INTO
THE OPEN, A BURST OF GUNFIRE RINGS OUT!
BUT AMAZINGLY ENOUGH NO BULLETS COME
HIS WAY...



MINUTES LATER, AS THE GUNSMOKE VANISHES...



LATER THAT MORNING...



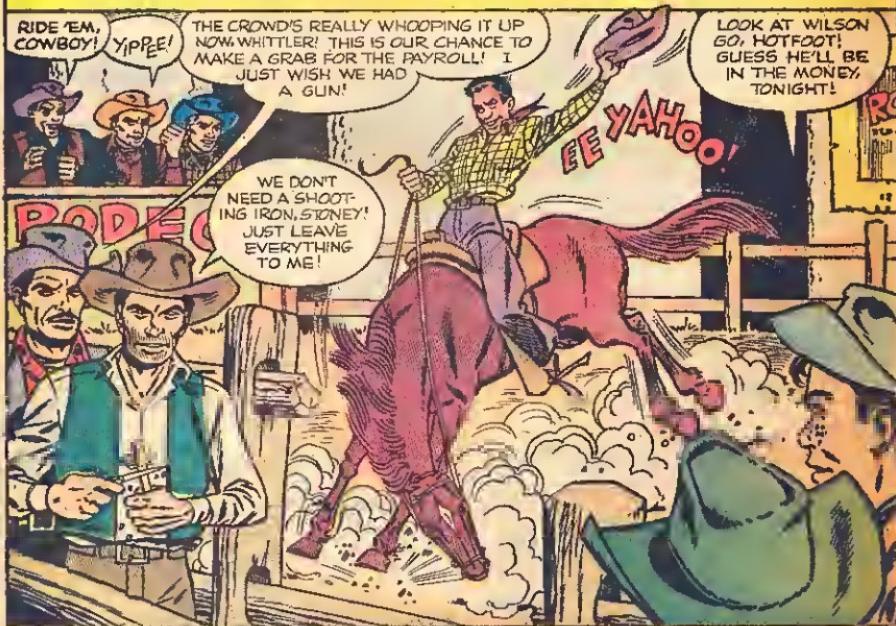
SO HAS RAGEN!
HE LEARNED ABOUT
ITS REPUTATION...
FIRST HAND!

THE END

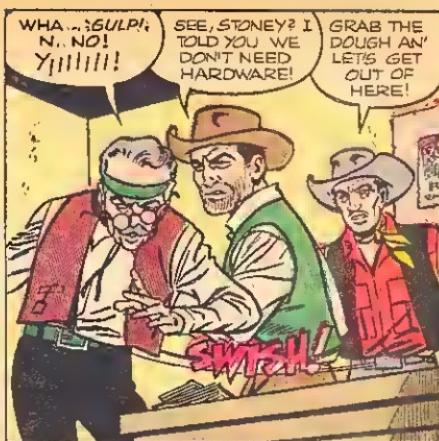
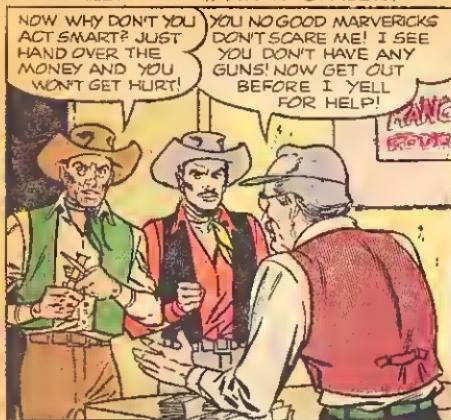
BUCK ROPER WAS INNOCENT OF THE MURDER HE WAS ACCUSED OF COMMITTING, AND ALL HIS FRIENDS RALLIED AROUND TO HELP, ESPECIALLY HIS GOOD FRIEND 'HOTFOOT', WHO EVEN LIED TO SAVE BUCK...HE TOLD ONE LIE AFTER ANOTHER, AND EACH SUCCEEDING LIE ONLY HELPED TO TIGHTEN THE NOOSE AROUND BUCK ROPER'S NECK!

BUCK ROPER

IN "THE RODEO PAYROLL MURDER"



MEANWHILE AT THE PAYMASTER'S OFFICE . . .



BUT AT THAT MOMENT . . .





THE NOISE OF
THE SCUFFLE
ALSO ATTRACTS
MR. HILL, THE
OWNER OF THE
RODEO AND
THE SHERIFF...

BUCK!
WHAT
HAPPENED?
SOMETHING
AWFUL, MR. HILL!
TWO VARMINTS
MURDERED THE
PAYMASTER!

BUT HOTFOOT CAN'T HEAR WHAT BUCK'S SAYING ...
POOR BUCK! THEY'VE GOT HIM DEAD TO RIGHTS!
BUT I KNOW HE'D NEVER KILL ANYONE UNLESS
HE WAS FORCED INTO IT! AFTER THE NICE
WAY HE TREATED ME, I'VE GOT TO
HELP HIM!



HOLD IT! THE MURDER WASN'T
BUCK'S FAULT! THE PAYMASTER
ATTACKED HIM FIRST AND
BUCK KILLED HIM IN SELF-
DEFENSE! I SAW IT
ALL!

HUH? WHAT
ARE YOU
TAKING
ABOUT?

I KNOW WHAT HE'S TALKING ABOUT! HE SAW YOU
STAB THE PAYMASTER AND HE'S TRYING TO HELP
YOU BY CLAIMING IT WAS SELF-DEFENSE! BUT IT
WON'T WORK! IF YOU HAD KILLED THE PAY-
MASTER IN SELF-DEFENSE, YOU WOULDN'T HAVE
MADE UP A COCK AND BULL STORY ABOUT A
COUPLE 'OF
BANDITS WHO...



...WOULD COMMIT MURDER
AND THEN RUSH OFF LEAVING
THE LOOT HERE! IT DOESN'T
MAKE SENSE!

BUT IT'S
THE TRUTH,
SHERIFF!
HONEST...
I ...

SAVE YOUR EXPLANATIONS
FOR THE TRIAL, BUCK!
I'M LOCKING YOU UP ON
A CHARGE OF MURDER!
LET'S GO!

I TOLD THAT LIE ONLY TO
HELP BUCK, AND ALL I
DID WAS FOUL MATTERS
UP! I'LL VISIT HIM IN JAIL!
MAYBE HE'LL HAVE AN
IDEA WHAT I CAN
DO TO HELP!



LATER, AT THE JAILHOUSE...

I KNOW YOU WERE TRYING TO HELP, HOTFOOT, BUT THE ONLY REAL WAY TO HELP ME IS TO TELL THE SHERIFF THE TRUTH! THAT'S THE ONLY THING YOU SAW WAS ME STANDING OVER THE BODY!

SURE, BUCK! I'LL GO TELL HIM RIGHT NOW!

IF I TELL THE SHERIFF THAT'S ALL I SAW IT WON'T HELP BUCK AT ALL! IT WOULD STILL LOOK AS IF HE KILLED THE PAYMASTER! I'VE GOT TO THINK OF A BETTER STORY THAN THAT!



AND ONCE AGAIN, HOTFOOT RELIES ON A LIE TO HELP BUCK...

...AND THAT'S THE TRUTH, SHERIFF! I SAW THE KILLERS AS THEY ESCAPED!

YOU DON'T EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE THAT, DO YOU, AFTER THE OTHER STORY YOU TOLD? LISTEN, HOTFOOT, I KNOW YOU'RE A GOOD FRIEND OF BUCKS, BUT IT'S NO DICE! THE BEST THING YOU CAN DO IS GO BACK TO THE RODEO!



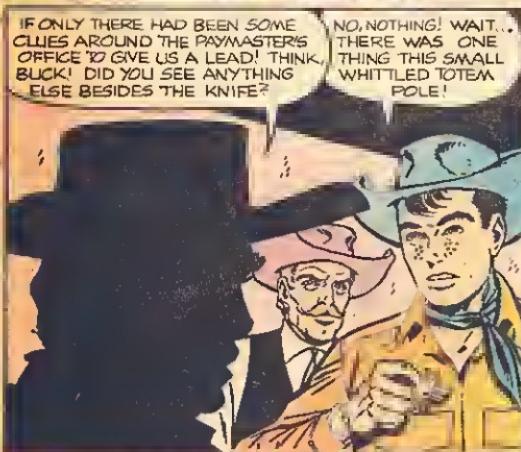
NEXT DAY AT THE JAILHOUSE...

SOME OF THE GANG FROM THE RODEO WHO VISITED ME SAID THAT HOTFOOT'S GOING AROUND TOWN TELLING EVERYONE HE SAW THE KILLERS! THAT'S DANGEROUS, SHERIFF! IF THEY HEAR ABOUT IT, THEY'RE BOUND TO TRY AND SHUT HIM UP FOR GOOD!

SAVE YOUR BREATH, BUCK! THERE WAS NO ONE IN THAT OFFICE WITH THE PAYMASTER EXCEPT YOU!

SHERIFF! SOMETHING TERRIBLE JUST HAPPENED! HOTFOOT WAS TALKING TO DIXIE IN THE RODEO WHEN TWO MASKED MEN RODE BY AND GRABBED HIM!











WESTERN LORE

Stan Lee

MANY PIONEERS WE KNOW MADE THEIR WAY WESTWARD IN COVERED WAGONS! SOME, HOWEVER, WHO COULD NOT AFFORD SUCH WAGONS TRAVELED IN HANDCARTS — PUSHING THEIR WAY ACROSS THE COUNTRY! ALTOGETHER SOME 1500 PEOPLE TRAVELED 1300 MILES IN THIS PRIMITIVE FASHION!



BEFORE THE ADVENT OF THE PONY EXPRESS AND EXPENSIVE PRIVATE CARRIERS, WESTERNERS USED A MOST UNUSUAL MAIL SERVICE! THEY SIMPLY SCRIBBLED MESSAGES ON BUFFALO SKULLS AND LEFT THEM ON THE SIDE OF THE ROAD! A TRAVELER, GOING IN THAT DIRECTION WOULD DELIVER THE LETTERS FREE! LETTERS WERE ALSO LEFT ATOP SPLIT STICKS AT THE ROADSIDE! LETTERS WOULD TRAVEL 1000 MILES THIS WAY...SOME TIMES INVOLVING THREE AND FOUR CARRIERS!

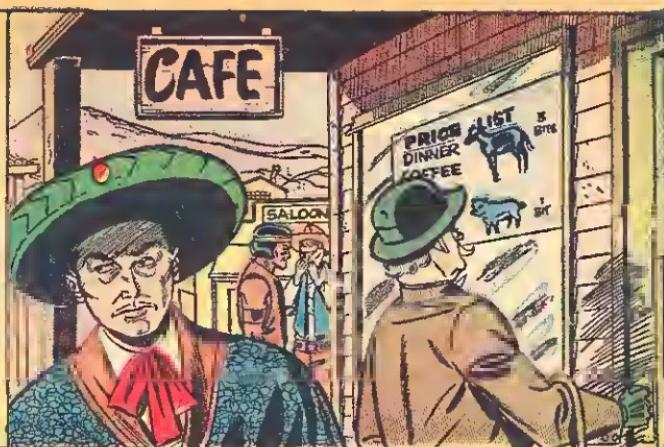


ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS PEACE OFFICERS OF THE OLD WEST WAS SMITH OF ABILENE, ON HIS FIRST DAY AS SHERIFF, HE WALKED INTO THE LOCAL BAR AND ORDERED ALL MEN TO TURN THEIR GUNS OVER TO HIM AND PROMISED TO RETURN THEM WHEN THEY LEFT TOWN! MEN COMPLIED WITH SMITH'S REQUEST FOR TWO REASONS: THEY FELT THE SHERIFF SHOWED A LOT OF NERVE, AND THEY WERE CAUGHT BY SURPRISE!



A COWBOY'S GUN WAS HIS BEST LEGAL PROTECTION AND ON OCCASION HIS "RADIO PATROL". IF HE FIRED THREE SHOTS SLOWLY, THIS MEANT A NEED FOR HELP: ALL WHO HEARD THESE SHOTS WOULD RESPOND GOING OUT OF THEIR WAY IF NECESSARY! THE SENDER OF A FALSE ALARM WOULD BE BEATEN FOR HIS JOKE!

WHAT KIND OF PRICE LIST WOULD YOU USE IF YOUR CUSTOMERS SPOKE FRENCH, SPANISH, INDIAN OR ENGLISH? PROBABLY ONE LIKE THIS USING ANIMAL SYMBOLS INSTEAD OF MONEY SYMBOLS! EVERYBODY COULD UNDERSTAND THE ANIMAL SYMBOL! PRICE LISTS LIKE THIS ONE HERE WERE USED IN NEW MEXICO WHERE YOU COULD FIND CANADIANS, INDIANS, MEXICANS, AND AMERICANS! SYMBOL OF A PIG = ONE BIT (12½ CENTS) CALF = 2 BITS.



COWBOYS ENJOYED WATCHING FIGHTS BETWEEN SNAKES (KING SNAKE AND RATTLESNAKES) THAT WERE ALWAYS AVAILABLE! COWBOYS ENJOYED CHEERING ON THEIR FAVORITE SNAKE AND BETTING ON HIM!



DID YOU KNOW THAT COWBOYS SOMETIMES SERVED AS PROFESSIONAL SOLDIERS? WHEN LIFE ON THE TRAIL BECAME TOO DULL OR WHEN BUSINESS WAS BAD, COWBOYS WOULD FIGHT IN LOCAL CIVIL WARS FOR PAY! SUCH LOCAL WARS TOOK PLACE IN TEXAS, NEW MEXICO, AND WYOMING! ENGAGING IN SUCH WARS DID NOT MARK THE COWBOY AS AN OUTLAW BUT MERELY AS A PROFESSIONAL SOLDIER!

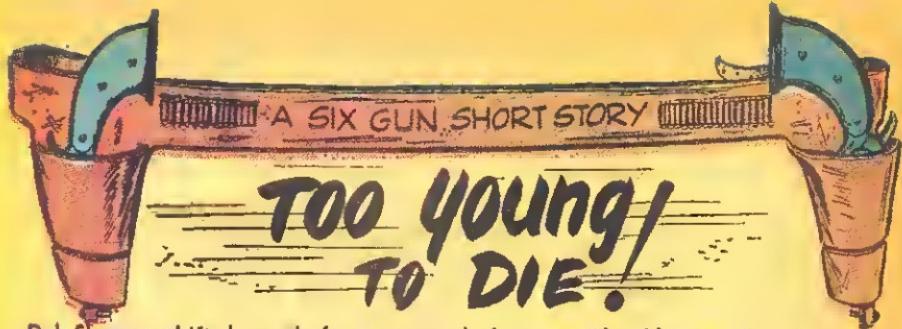


ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS TRADING POSTS OF THE OLD WEST WAS BENT'S FORT (1828) AT LA JUANTA, COLORADO. BENT OFFERED TRADERS AND TRAPPERS FREE MEALS, FREE LODGING, CREDIT AND SUPPLIES! MEN LEFT THEIR WIVES HERE WHILE THEY WENT AWAY FOR A FEW MONTHS TRAPPING! THE FORT WAS WELL PROTECTED AGAINST INDIAN ATTACK! IT HAD AN IRON GATE AND HIGH ADOBE WALL! WHEN THE GOVERNMENT OFFERED TO BUY THE FORT, BENT BLEW IT UP INSTEAD! HE FELT THE PRICE WAS TOO LOW!



FIGHTING INDIANS REQUIRED BRAINS AS WELL AS GUNS! COL. LEAVENWORTH, AFTER A NUMBER OF SKIRMISHES WITH THE NODOUS ARIKARAS TRIBE OF INDIANS WAS GETTING NOWHERE! IN HIS NEXT ENCOUNTER WITH THIS INDIAN BAND, LEAVENWORTH DEFEATED THEM AND MADE THEM SIGN A TREATY OF PEACE! THE COLONEL HAD DISCOVERED THAT THE SIOUX...EXCELLENT FIGHTERS...WERE ANCIENT ENEMIES OF THE ARIKARAS, AND ONLY WITH THEIR HELP, SKILL, AND CUNNING WAS HE ABLE TO WIN THE DAY!





TOO YOUNG TO DIE!

Bob Sherman shifted a wad of gum nervously from one side of his mouth to the other. It was a large, sticky, chewy piece of gum and it took the edge off his nerves. If ever anybody had a case of nerves, Bob had them.

He walked slowly down the street to the Red Garter Saloon and was conscious that the badge on his leather vest had a shine to it that came with newness.

The sidewalk was lined with citizens who stopped talking as he approached them, and they whispered as he passed. He couldn't hear what they were saying, but he didn't have to. He knew.

They were all saying he was too young to die.

Sheriff Bob Sherman agreed.

Bob Sherman looked up at the hot sun, and unconsciously rubbed his arm over the badge on his chest. He shifted the sticky wad of gum, and spit on the ground. His father had just been killed by Billy Thompson. Billy's gun had a reputation that sent chills down the spines of many gunslingers. It was finely balanced with a hair trigger, and after years of practice, the gun had become part of the hand. The perfect weight of the gun, and the perfect coordination of the muscles had given Thompson an edge on his gunslaying opponents that had led anyone who dared to oppose him to an early, and shallow grave. Robert Sherman Sr., had tried to live up to the letter of the law and bring in Thompson for the murder of the sheriff in Lopat County.

Robert Sherman Sr. had a dignified funeral. He was buried with his badge. Thompson had been vicious in killing Sheriff Sherman Sr. He had shot the gun out of his hand first, and then put a bullet in his gut so that he died slowly and painfully. No more painfully than the other sheriffs.

He shifted the wad of gum into the other side of his cheek, parted the swinging doors, and walked into the Red Garter Saloon.

* * * * *

The smoke hung heavy in the air. Two girls singing near the piano stopped when they saw him, and the men who had been playing cards, suddenly forgot the postage stamps they held in their hands, and followed Bob with their eyes.

The gum in his mouth had become unbearably large, and sticky. His mouth was dry, and his tongue swollen. Bob removed the gum. He stumbled against a man at the bar, the only one who hadn't looked up when he entered the room.

It was Billy Thompson. The leathery lined face was hardened by the wind and sand. The lips were thin and cruel. The eyebrows were like a pencil line, accentuating the evil eyes.

"I'll have to take you in," Sherman said apologetically. "You're wanted for murder in this county, and I've been notified by half dozen other counties that you're wanted...."

"Well they ain't lyin'" laughed Thompson, "they all want me, but they ain't one that's man enough to go after me."

"Well," Bab sucked in his breath, "I am. If you'll come along peaceable-like no one'll get hurt.

"All right, kid," Thompson turned and faced Sherman "make a move for your gun, and you'll be carried out. Now I don't usually get soft with sheriffs, but seein' os you're so young, I'll make an exception. If you get out of town and don't come back, I won't kill you!"

Thompson broke into a laugh, but Sherman cut him cold.

"Fun's over," Sherman snapped, "Come on."

"I'll tell you what, kid," Thompson smiled, "I'll give you a fighting chance. We'll have the bartender count to three, and then we'll draw. That'll give you a chance to walk out of here!"

The bartender whispered to Sherman, "Be smart, kid, walk out of here while you're whole."

"No," Sherman told him. "This polecat would shoot me in the back. Go ahead. Count!"

The bartender shrugged his large shoulders. "Okay, he said, but if this place gets messed up, the guy who lives is gonna pay for the damage!"

"One." He said. And the men at the bar melted away.

"Two." The cards were tossed into heaps, as the players ducked behind their chairs, their eyes glued to the man and the boy at the bar.

"Three," said the bartender in a little more than a whisper, and Thompson's hand snaked down to his gun, that came up spitting fire and smoke in split seconds. The boy's hand found his gun, and his gun talked once, and then the famous pistol of Thompson's came tumbling down. A look of pain crossed Thompson's face and he stood there, sagging against the bar.

"Come on," said Sherman. "We're going down to the jail, where Doc Simmons can take care of your hand, and a jury can take care of your record!"

Sherman looked at the broken mirror in back of him and said to the startled bartender, "The county will pay for the broken mirror."

"Forget it," growled the bartender. "This one is on the house!"

* * * * *

Doc Simmons had bandaged the hand of Thompson and Sherman had seen to it that the prisoner was firmly locked behind bars before he hung up his knew belt.

"I got to hand it to you, son," Doc Simmons told him. You were up against the fastest draw in the west and you beat him."

"I didn't beat him, Doc," admitted Sherman. "He fired first and missed."

"Don't sound like Thompson . . ." protested the Doc. "He's got the fastest, best weighted gun in the west . . ."

"I know," admitted Bob. "I counted on it. That's why I slapped o wad of chewing gum an the butt of his gun when I first met him. It wos the only way I could throw his gun off balance. I knew if he would miss my gun hand when he fired first, he would miss me the second time. It would be a combination of panic and confusion, and I knew I would have him."

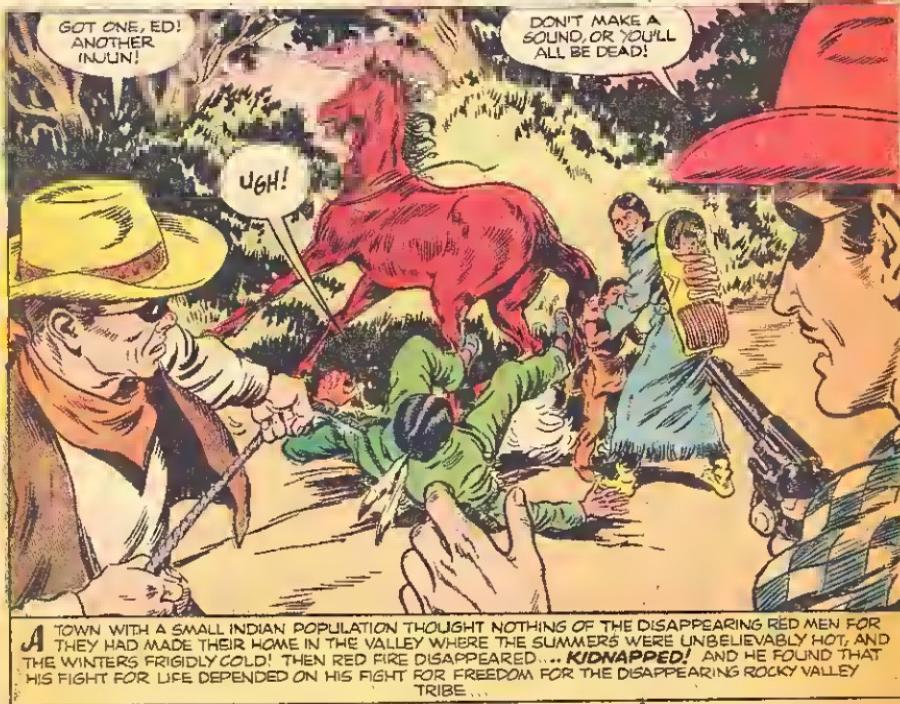
"But son," said Doc, "what if he hadn't shot for your gun hand first? Suppose he would have tried ta get you with the first shot?"

"He'd have had me," Bab said simply. "I could throw his gun off balance to miss my arm, but at that distance he could have blown a hole through me that a team of horses could clear. He was real mean. He wanted me ta suffer like the other sheriffs he shot, and his meanness is what beat him. Because he wanted to see me die slowly, he's going to hang for murder!"

THE END

RED FIRE

in "FIGHT FOR LIFE"







MOMENTS LATER...



AND THEN THE LONE RIDER TAKES A SURPRISING TURN...



ONE GOT AWAY.
BOSS! I TRAILED
HIM INTO TOWN,
THEN 'LOST' HIM!
HE MIGHT BE
COMING HERE!

QUIET, YOU FOOL!
DO YOU WANT THE
SHERIFF TO
HEAR?



QUICK—TELL
ME WHAT
HAPPENED!
I'LL HAVE
YOUR HIDE
FOR THIS!

IT WASN'T MY
FAULT, BOSS! ONE
OF THE INDIANS,
NAME OF RED FIRE,
WHO MUSTIVE MORE
LIVES THAN A CAT,
ROLLED DOWN
THE MOUNTAIN
SIDE AND GOT
AWAY!

WHAT'S
ON YOUR
MIND,
JAMISON?
I'VE GOT TO POST THAT
LAND TODAY, SHERIFF.
MY CATTLE NEED THE
WATER, AND THE CHIEF
AGREED TO SELL THE
VALLEY SINCE THE TRIBE HAS
DESERTED IT! I'M READY
TO DYNAMITE THE
STREAM AND LET IT
COME THROUGH...

THAT VALLEY
LEADS RIGHT UP
THROUGH MY
RANCH, AND THE
WATER CAN BE
THERE BY
TONIGHT...

HE'S LYING,
SHERIFF!
DON'T LET HIM
DO IT!



ALMOST THE WHOLE TRIBE
IS HELD PRISONER IN A
CAVE OVERLOOKING THE
VALLEY! IT'S MY GUESS THE
CHIEF HAS EITHER BEEN
KILLED, OR FORCED TO
SELL THE LAND!

HOLD ON,
SON! YOU'RE
GOING TOO
FAST!

ARE YOU GOING
TO LISTEN TO THIS
KID ALL DAY? I
DEMAND THAT
WE GET ON WITH
POSTING THAT
PROPERTY!

HOLD ON, JAMISON! IT WON'T
TAKE LONG TO CHECK THE
KID'S STORY! ANYONE WHO
JUMPS THROUGH THE
WINDOW MUST THINK WHAT
HE'S GOT TO SAY IS MIGHTY
IMPORTANT! WHAT'S ON
YOUR MIND, KID?



RED FIRE TELLS HIS STORY, OF HIS CAPTURE AND ESCAPE, AND THE MAD DASH THROUGH TOWN! THE SHERIFF LISTENS CAREFULLY AND THEN...

THIS IS RIDICULOUS, SHERIFF! WHOEVER HEARD OF KIDNAPPING AN INDIAN TRIBE? THEY'RE ALL IN THE VALLEY, I TELL YOU! THEY'RE PACKING, GETTING READY TO LEAVE!

WE'LL SEE, JAMISON! YOU CAN COME ALONG IF YOU WANT TO, BUT I MUST LOOK INTO HIS STORY! LEAD THE WAY, RED FIRE!

THE RIDE IS WILD AND FAST! RED FIRE SLOWS DOWN ONLY WHEN FAMILIAR LANDMARKS COME INTO VIEW...



THERE'S NO ONE HERE! IT WAS JUST A WILD GOOSE CHASE! DON'T YOU THINK WE OUGHT TO GET DOWN TO BUSINESS NOW?

SHERIFF?

OF COURSE! IT WAS JUST A WILD GOOSE CHASE! DON'T YOU THINK WE OUGHT TO GET DOWN TO BUSINESS NOW?

SHERIFF?

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU EXPECTED TO GAIN BY THIS, RED FIRE! JUST FOR TAKING ME UP HERE, YOU CAN WALK BACK! I'LL DEAL WITH YOU LATER IN TOWN!

BUT, SHERIFF, THEY MUST'VE BEEN WARNED! THEY WERE MOVED, AND IF WE DIDN'T PASS THEM COMING UP HERE THEY MUST'VE GONE FURTHER UP INTO THE MOUNTAINS!

HERE, WOLF! WE'RE ON OUR OWN AGAIN! WHERE DID THEY MOVE THE BRAVES? COME ON, WOLF. PICK UP THE TRAIL...



RED FIRE SCRAMBLES OVER THE ROCKS FOLLOWING WOLF WHOSE KEEN SENSE OF SMELL LEADS HIM DIRECTLY TO A CLEARING... AND THE NEW CAMP...

THEY WISH THEY'D BUST THAT DAM SO WE COULD DROWN THESE INJUNS AND GO HOME! DON'T SEE WHY THE BOSS JUST DIDN'T KILL THEM ALL IN THE FIRST PLACE!

DON'T BE A DOPE! TOO MANY DEAD BODIES AND THE SHERIFF WOULD BE AFTER US! THIS WAY IT'S A BIG ACCIDENT! THEY DIDN'T GET OUT IN TIME AND DROWNED!

STEALTHILY RED FIRE CIRCLES THE CAMP AND ONCE OUT OF THE GUARDS SIGHT, HE BEGINS TO LOOSEN THE BONDS OF THE NEAREST CAPTIVE...



FLYING EAGLE, WHEN I UNTIE YOUR ROPES, GO QUIETLY TO THE HORSES BEHIND US! THERE ARE RIFLES IN THE SADDLES! OTHERS WILL SOON FOLLOW...

I'LL DO AS YOU SAY, RED FIRE!

ONE BY ONE THE BRAVES MELT AWAY AND ARM THEMSELVES... AND THEN AT A SIGNAL FROM RED FIRE...

GET THEM... NOW!

WE'VE GOT TO GET TO THE VALLEY TO PREVENT THE SHERIFF FROM POSTING THE AREA! ONCE THEY FLOOD THE VALLEY OUR HOMES AND ALL OUR POSSESSIONS WILL BE GONE!

LEAD THE WAY RED FIRE... WE WILL FOLLOW!



ONCE AGAIN, THE DASH OVER THE TREACHEROUS PATH WHERE EXPERT HORSEMENSHIP IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH . . .



IN ROCKY VALLEY, JAMISON AND HIS HENCHMEN SEE THE APPROACHING INDIANS . . .

THE INDIANS! THEY'RE LOOSE! BILL, GET UP TO THE TOP OF THE HILL AND CHECK THE DYNAMITE! AS SOON AS I CAN GET AWAY I'LL SET IT OFF!

OKAY BOSS! WE'LL GET 'EM ONE WAY OR THE OTHER!

THAT'S ONE OF THE BAND! THE LEADER! HE KIDNAPPED ME AND MY FAMILY!

THERE MUST BE SOME MISTAKE! THIS IS MR. JAMISON!

THERE'S NO MISTAKE!

ANYONE WHO FOLLOWS ME GETS A TASTE OF BULLETS! NO ONE'S GOING TO STOP ME! THIS VALLEY IS GOING TO BE MINE!



WHILE JAMISON FIRES AT HIS PURSUITERS, RED FIRE STEALTHILY FOLLOWS HIM ALONG A SIDE PATH...

I'LL TAKE HIM ON THE NEXT TURN...



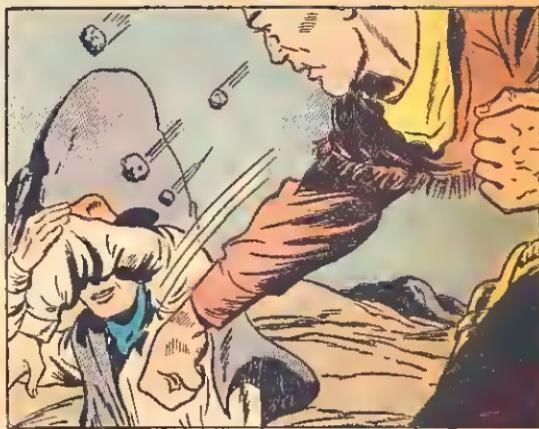
YOU'RE TOO EARLY BOSS! I'M NOT READY YET...

YOU FOOL! DO YOU THINK I PLANNED THIS? GET DOWN THE ROAD AND KEEP THE SHERIFF AND THE INDIANS AWAY WHILE I TAKE CARE OF THIS KID...



I'M GOING TO TEACH YOU A LESSON YOU'LL NEVER FORGET, AND WHEN I GET THROUGH WITH YOUR FRIENDS, THEY'LL NEVER FORGET ME EITHER... IN FACT THEY WON'T HAVE VERY LONG TO REMEMBER...





Could You Use \$1,000,000?

We'd like to hand you the million—but that's impossible—But your **HEALTH** is worth a million! And WE CAN MAKE YOU HEALTHY!



LOSE UGLY FAT SUBSTITUTE MUSCLE!

BUILDS HEALTH FOR
MEN — WOMEN — CHILDREN!

ADD MUSCLE TO SKINNY FRAMES!

Build Your Body & Health NOW!

WITH THIS FAMOUS

HIP POCKET GYM

WEIGHS ONLY 1½ POUNDS!

★ AMAZING BUT TRUE!

Yes, HIP POCKET GYM helps **BOTH** skinny and stout people. Famous celebrities, people all over the world have been brought to thrilling **FULL BLOODED HEALTH** by this amazing exerciser.

★ THERE'S NO MAGIC — NO MIRACLE!

HIP POCKET GYM works by putting Nature on your team. Using scientific and medical principles, it helps the body to help itself by giving the body just the right amount of exercise it requires! HIP POCKET GYM automatically adjusts to your strength and ability! You do not have to be Mr. America — even children can use it! A few minutes a day may lengthen your life and give you the power to BE A MAN AMONG MEN!

★ SO SIMPLE! SO EASY! No swelling, no aching, no swelling, no leg cramps, no stiffness! A few minutes a day to a lazy man's way will give you of that sun-down tired feeling and gives you the PEP and FORCE of PERSONALITY to forge ahead to SUCCESS!

★ RECOMMENDED BY OVER A HALF MILLION PEOPLE! The HIP POCKET Method of Body Building has been so essential that it's used by the Armed Forces of thousands of men who have been built during the past 25 years by word of mouth and recommendation **WITHOUT ONE WORD OF ADVERTISING!**

★ BUILDS HEALTH IN VETERANS' HOSPITALS — HIP POCKET GYM is used by physiotherapists in Veterans' Hospitals to rebuild health and vigor in our wounded and maimed men.

★ SCIENTIFICALLY CONSTRUCTED — HIP POCKET GYM is made of pure, natural rubber they stretches — tension with ease! Hard Gym texture — scientifically molded, single piece resistance rubber that exercises the muscles gently, gradually and firmly — preventing over-training. HIP POCKET GYM is light and compact. You can take it anywhere!

5 DAY MONEY BACK GUARANTEE!

FIRST TIME
SPECIAL-OFFER

ONLY **3 95**
 POSTPAID

Sold
Nationwide
at \$5.95

BE
POPULAR

Mr. AMERICA USES HIP POCKET GYM!

The Mr. America title goes to the athlete judged by the foremost health and fitness experts to be the most perfectly developed man in America. Among the last three years you can find the man who won the title in a top health and strength magazine. He was showing off his favorite exercise with HIP POCKET GYM — for developing the legs, triceps, neck and shoulders!



FREE with every HIP POCKET GYM, the FREE complete catalog, and a money order.

MAIL COUPON TODAY

TEE JAY CO.,
P.O. Box 467, South Norwalk, Conn.
Please send me _____ HIP POCKET GYMS @ \$3.95 each. PLUS FREE set of Health and Strength Exercises. Total amount enclosed \$_____

Check Money Order Cash

To Save Handling and Postage Charge Send Check or Money Order.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

ZONE _____ STATE _____

If I am not satisfied for any reason whatsoever, I may return the Hip Pocket Gym within 5 days for full refund!

Watch the Smoke Curl up
the Chimney

ORIGINAL KENTUCKY TAVERN BARBECUE ASH TRAY

- ★ A MINIATURE FIREPLACE
 - ★ A CIGARETTE SERVER
 - ★ A MATCH HOLDER
 - ★ AN ASH TRAY
 - ★ AN INCENSE BURNER
- All In One!**

Here's a novel, beautiful Ash Tray that's useful in dozens of ways. Smoke and incense curls out the chimney. Has metal fireplace grill cover which lifts out to remove ashes or insert incense. Order today on our 10 day Trial Offer!

Packaged Oriental Incense included without extra cost with Ash Tray



**ALL YOURS \$1 98
FOR ONLY**

This Beautiful
Replica BARBECUE
FIREPLACE makes
an attractive
DECORATIVE
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Your
Complete
SATISFACTION
Is GUARANTEED

**Most Beautiful, Most Original
Most Useful Ash Tray Ever Made!**
Here's the famous Barbecue Ash Tray that created such a sensation when it was featured with Kentucky Tavern in leading national magazines. There is no ash tray to compare with it for originality of design and all around usefulness. Made of durable Hydrocal, hand colored to look like real firestones. Holds a generous supply of cigarettes and matches. A perfect gift for every occasion. Order on coupon →

Rush your Order On This NO-RISK Coupon

ILLINOIS MERCHANTISE MART, Dept. 2505 A
1227 LOTOLA AVE., CHICAGO 26, ILL.

Send me the following Barbecue Ash Trays on your 10 Day Money Back Guarantee Offer. (NOTE: We will gladly ship C. O. D. if you prefer but C. O. D. rates are so costly we urge you to pay in advance. You save up to 86c.)

- Enclosed in \$1.98 plus 25¢ (\$2.23) —ship 1 Ash Tray postpaid.
 Enclosed in \$3.89 plus 40¢ (\$4.29) —ship 2 Ash Trays postpaid.
 Ship 1 Ash Tray C. O. D. Ship 2 Ash Trays C. O. D.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

New Reducing "Miracle" "DROPEX" REDUCING COCKTAIL

(Reduces Excessive Appetite)

Proved by Doctors to Reduce Weight
9 lbs. in 4 weeks . . . 15 lbs. in 2 months!

—by Reducing Desire to Overeat

Clinical Tests Prove Use of
"DROPEX" Reducing Cocktail
Resulted in Weight Losses
Averaging 2 lbs. per week

By curbing
desire to
overeat.



IF you are overweight due to overeating and want to lose 9 to 15 pounds, try "DROPEX." Just add a dropperful of the new "DROPEX" Reducing Cocktail to your favorite drink before each meal and let "DROPEX" curb your excessive appetite.

"DROPEX" Reducing Cocktail has been proven by doctors who tested it on a group of normal overweight men and women. The doctors' tests showed a safe, steady reduction of weight every week with "DROPEX" Reducing Cocktail. Average losses were 9 lbs. in 4 weeks and 15½ lbs. in 2 months.

Naturally, weight losses vary in individual cases. In clinical tests "DROPEX" was consistently successful. "DROPEX" may not be consistently successful in all cases, but you take no risk in trying "DROPEX" on our Money Back Guarantee. You have nothing to lose but fat—so easily, so safely, so pleasantly.



"DROPEX" is new and different . . . pleasant, tangy taste.

in Doctors' Tests "DROPEX"
Users Last Average
of 2 Pounds Per Week

—Without Special Diets
—Without Exercises

"DROPEX" Reducing Cocktail was carefully tested on a group of overweight men and women. The results from taking "DROPEX" delighted the doctors supervising the tests, as well as the overweight man and women. Many of the people who took "DROPEX" had used other products without success but with "DROPEX" the average weight loss was 2 pounds a week over an eight week period.

All the overweight persons did was to add a dropperful of "DROPEX" to their favorite drink before each meal. No diets or special eating plans were prescribed. The doctors credited the steady loss of excess weight to the use of "DROPEX" which curbed the excessive appetite.

ENTIRELY DIFFERENT FROM ANYTHING
YOU HAVE EVER TRIED!



Add "DROPEX" to fruit
or vegetable juice, soft
drinks, alcoholic beverages
or plain water.

In clinical tests
both men and women,
weight losses
averaged 2 lbs.
per week with

"DROPEX"
REDUCING
COCKTAIL \$2.98



Cut out coupon now as a
reminder to get "DROPEX"

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

We guarantee your
money back if
"DROPEX" does
not reduce your
weight WITHOUT
ANY SPECIAL
DIETS!

CHARM COMPANY Dept. DL

400 Madison Ave. New York 17, N. Y.

Please send me bottles of Dropex Reducing
Cocktail, at \$2.98.

- Send C.O.D. I will pay postman plus postal charges.
- I enclose payment. You pay postage.
- Send 3 bottles for \$6.00 (1 free when you buy 2).

NAME

STREET

CITY

STATE

**BIG 4-8 SET TABLE TENNIS SET**

Official size set with 4 Bats, 2 Balls, net, posts and rules of play. All you need for the game of Doubles or Singles.

**GRAILETT WRIST WATCH**

For Boys and Girls. A guaranteed watch. Hand-some Chromium case, unbreakable crystal, genuine leather strap. This attractive wrist watch is given without cost.

**COMPLETE WOODBURNING SET**

Woodburning Set contains 3 metal tips, 8 wood plaques, metallic foil, paints, brush. Guaranteed with complete instructions.

**Official Size - Official Weight BASKETBALL**

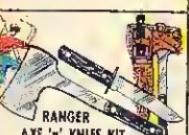
Sturdy valve-type ball. For indoor or outdoor use.

**Complete MICROSCOPE OUTFIT**

A precision-built Microscope outfit with 50 power optical lens, slide glass and specimen. Don't miss this great outfit.

**AIR CHAMP RADIO KIT**

A genuine crystal radio. Build it. Use it. Listen to your favorite radio program.

**RANGER AXE 'n' KNIFE KIT**

An all-purpose Axe 'n' Knife Kit in double leather belt sheath. Axe and knife made of tough carbon steel. Great kit for outdoors.

**"JET SWISHER"**

A Ready-to-Fly Jet Airplane. Nothing to build. Just attach wings, light fuse and away it goes. Flies 500 ft. high. Comes complete with engine and jet fuel.

**ULL SIZE UKULELE**

plus Arthur Godfrey's famous "push button" player. Both given with complete instruction and song booklet.

OVER 70 GREAT PRIZES TO CHOOSE FROM

These shown in addition to Talkie Walking Doll, Two-Gun Hobo, Toy Set Watch, Simplex Typewriter, Football Dresser Set, Daring Training Rifle, Pezil, Knapsack, Roller Skates, Moccasin Kit, Pup Tent, Firecracker Necklace, Sports Kit, Electric Jester, Pogo-Jump, Toy dr. Guitar, Printing Press, Stamp Box, Bumper, Bird Clock, Umbrella, Canopy "Cookit" Kit, Electric Games, many more. Send Coupon for Free Prize Book.

I'M "UNCLE" HARRY***I Will Send You PRIZES Like These*****WITHOUT ONE CENT OF COST**

I have been helping boys and girls get prizes and earn money for 36 years. Shown here are just a few of the wonderful Prizes you can get without a cent of cost for selling my famous Christmas Packs. Any of these prizes or your choice of over 50 others shown in my Free Prize Book are given for selling just one order of 24 Christmas Packs at 25c a pack. Many boys and girls sell the Packs in one day and get their prizes at once.

Hurry — Be First in Your Neighborhood

It's easy to sell these Christmas Packs to your family, friends and neighbors. Each Pack contains 4 Christmas Cards, 4 Envelopes and 32 Sparkling Christmas Seals—40 pieces for 25c—a big value. They're so gay and bright—they sell on sight. When sold, send me the money and choose your prize from my Free Prize Book. Or, keep \$2.00 in cash for each 24 pack order you sell.

Send No Money—I Trust You

Post coupon on postcard or mail in envelope to AMERICAN SPECIALTY CO., DEPT. 6, LANCASTER, PENNA.

Read What Wiley Johnson (Age 9) Says:

"Boy, when I look at all the prizes I got—like a sports kit, axe and knife set, cooking set, radio, knife, flashlight, and firecracker rifle. I can hardly believe it. Everybody liked your cards. I sold six orders in less than two weeks."

Here is What Maude Scott Says:

"It is fun and easy to sell your Christmas Packs. Everyone really liked them and they sold fast. I have orders for more. The prizes . . . and the extra money come in handy, too."

CHEM CRAFT**CHEMISTRY SET**

Amaze your friends with "Chemical Magic." You can perform eye-opening feats of magic with this exciting new Chemcraft Chemistry Set. Magic book and instructions included free.

ACRO FLASH CAMERA with Film

This swell outfit includes Camera, Flash Gun and Color Film. Has Great Lens. Takes pictures black and white or color. Makes beautiful enlargements.

**PRETTY TRAVEL CASE**

Oversize Case with removable tray. Has mirror, lock and key.

Professional Type Junior Archery Set